

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments, and the following remarks, Applicant requests favorable reconsideration of the above-identified application.

Claims 84-90 remain pending in this application, with Claims 84 and 86 being independent. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 84-86.

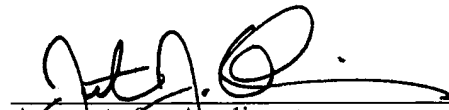
The claim changes presented herein return Claims 84-86 to the form they were in prior to entry of the Amendment filed on March 18, 2004. The March 18 Amendment was presented in view of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over U.S. Patent No. 5,917,947 (Ishida, et al.). The present Amendment undoes the March 18 claim changes because Applicant submits that Ishida, et al. is not prior art. Specifically, at the time the invention was made, Ishida, et al. and the claimed invention were both under an obligation of assignment to Canon. Thus, Ishida, et al. does not qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Applicant notes that Ishida, et al. is assigned to Canon and that the Assignment recorded in the present application lists both Canon and Canon Information Systems Research Australia as the assignees. However, at the time of the invention, Canon Information Systems Research Australia was also under an obligation to assign the invention to Canon. Also, Applicant notes that Canon Information Systems Research Australia is owned by Canon.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Ishida, et al. should be withdrawn. Consequently, Applicant respectfully request a Notice of Allowance in this case.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant
Justin J. Oliver
Registration No. 44,986

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

JJO\tmm

DC_MAIN 162910v1